REMARKS

In response to the Notice of Allowance mailed July 5, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

Request for Continued Examination

As outlined below, certain claims have been amended. Accordingly, this Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination.

Amendments to the Claims

The pending claims were in condition for allowance as indicated in the Notice of Allowance mailed on July 5, 2006. However, upon review, Applicant noted several informalities and unnecessary limitations. Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 28 and several of the dependent claims. In particular, independent Claims 1 and 28 no longer recite that the cap includes a "tissue retraction flange."

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims remain in condition for allowance and respectfully requests such allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims and specification. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.
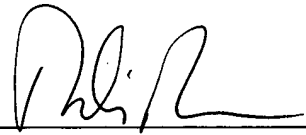
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 10-4-06

By: _____

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